

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-22 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 4,508,251 to Harada et al.

Harada et al, in figure 4 for example, discloses an apparatus including a tensioning device mounted to grip a fibre rope, the tensioning device supporting the load and facilitating the paying out and hauling in of the rope; wherein the tensioning device comprise multiple units mounted around the fibre rope axis, each having at least one contact pad for engaging the fibre rope over a corresponding part of its circumference; and wherein each contact pad has a curved contact surface whose radius of curvature is substantially greater than the radius at which the pad is arranged to engage the rope.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-22 and 24-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel M Marcelo whose telephone number is 571-272-6949. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on 571-272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Emmanuel M Marcelo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3654

/E. M./

